



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH CHILD EXPLOITATION, TRANSPORTATION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A Nokomis man was indicted last week for traveling to Canada to have sex with a minor and transporting child pornography across state lines, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Elisha Pasdeck, 31, was indicted Thursday for interstate and foreign travel to engage in sex with a juvenile, and with the interstate transportation of child pornography, announced Rodger A. Heaton, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. The indictment alleges that in July 2002 Pasdeck traveled to Canada where he engaged in sexual activity with a 12-year-old boy. The indictment also alleges that in May 2005 Pasdeck transported child pornography to Canada.

The indictment against Pasdeck was presented in federal court in Springfield. A notice and summons directing Pasdeck to appear for his next court appearance will be issued by the court. Pasdeck was arrested and charged by criminal complaint Dec. 19, 2005. He is under order by U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore to home confinement, which also includes: electronic monitoring and under additional special restrictions including removal of Internet service from his residence, restricted telephone access, no contact with minors under age 18, and monitoring by U.S. Probation officers.

If convicted, Pasdeck could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the offense of traveling to engage in sex with a juvenile. The transportation of child pornography carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The Nokomis Police Department and the Canadian Border Services Agency assisted ICE in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress is prosecuting this case.

Pasdeck's arrest is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals. Since this initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,900 individuals nationwide, including more than 340 in Illinois.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.